(b) whether there is any proposal to make this land available for cultivation and social forestry;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Total land with the Indian Railways is 4.19 lakh hectare, most of which is located under and on the sides of the Railway lines.

(b) to (d) The present policy is to allow tree plantation (social forestry), and not cultivation, on the vacant Railway land on both Sides of the Railway lines keeping it at a safe distance from the lines. The tree plantation is being done both by the Railway itself and through the assistance of the Forest Department.

Elephant "Mahal"

2799. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that elephant "Mahal" has been banned in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Elephant is a Scheduled animal under Section 49 A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act. Dealing in any captive animals being Scheduled animal is prohibited under Section 49B of the Act.

Plan to check deforestation for shifting cultivation

2800. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to check deforestation for shifting cultivation (Jhuming) in tribal areas of North Eastern States; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what alternative arrangements Government propose to make for the tribals to change, their age-old tradition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Government of India through Ministry of Agriculture has been implementing a scheme for control of Shifting Cultivation in the tribal areas of North Eastern States. Under the scheme, integrated programmes are taken up for reclamation and development of land for settlement of jhumias under regular agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture and forestry activities. Programmes for subsidiary occupations like cottage industry, poultry, piggery etc. are also undertaken.

(b) It is proposed to launch a Scheme during 8th Plan period for association of tribals and rural poor in regeneration of degraded forests to create sustainable ire-source base for economic activities of these people.

मध्य प्रदेश में सिंचाई वाले जलाशय

2801. श्री शिव प्रसाद धनपुरिया : क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में ऐसे कौन-कौन से जलाशय हैं जिनमें पानी के भण्डारण पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया है ;

(ख) इन जलाशयों की अलग-अलग सिंचाई क्षमता कितनी- कितनी है ;

(ग) ऐसे जलाशयों के डूब वाले क्षेत्र में आने वाले वन क्षेत्र का ब्यौरा क्या है तथा उससे वन सम्पदा को कितना नुकसान हुआ है; और

(घ) इन जलाशयों के माध्यम से होने वाली सिंचाई के लाभों की तुलना में वन सम्पदा को कितनी हानि हुई है ?